

SECTION V Special Reports



Arrest of Juveniles for Drug Abuse Violations from 1994 to 2003

Introduction

One major social ill facing the United States is drug abuse and its impact on the person and on society as a whole. Arrest data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program show that within the past decade alone, the number of arrests for drug abuse violations has increased 24.2 percent. In fact, the estimated number of arrests for drug abuse violations for the 10-year period 1994 to 2003 topped 15.4 million. Trends for overall arrests involving drug abuse suggest that this social problem shows no signs of abating. (See Table 5.1.)

Objective

Analyzing the characteristics of those arrested has long been a valuable tool for law enforcement in the war against crime. The objective of this study is to analyze the data provided to the UCR Program by the local, county, and state law enforcement agencies pertaining to the juveniles (individuals under

age 18) whom they arrested for drug abuse violations during the decade of 1994 to 2003.

Methodology

This study uses simple statistics and graphical tools to analyze the data received by the UCR Program concerning juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations over the 10-year period under consideration. The age, sex, and race of the juvenile arrestees are featured, and trends and patterns are illustrated by the tables and graphs.

Data

In the UCR Program, one arrest is counted for each separate instance in which an individual is arrested, cited, or summoned for a criminal act. An individual may be arrested multiple times during a year; therefore, the UCR Program's arrest figures do not represent the total number of persons arrested, but rather an accounting of the number of instances of arrest by law enforcement agencies. Because participation in the Program is voluntary, many agencies submit fewer than 12 months of arrest data. The actual arrest counts from those agencies submitting 12 months of complete arrest data were the base for this study. Those actual arrest counts were then used to estimate the number of arrests for the agencies that submitted fewer than 12 months of arrest data. (Details about the process used for making these estimations are provided in the Appendix at the end of this study.)

The UCR Program defines a juvenile as a person under the age of 18. The data used in this study include the age, sex, and race information reported to the Program concerning juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations over the 10-year

Table 5.1

Estimated Number of Drug Arrests, 1994-2003

Year	Total	Adult	Juvenile
Total	15,416,973	13,503,421	1,913,552
1994	1,351,400	1,192,342	159,058
1995	1,476,100	1,287,231	188,869
1996	1,506,200	1,300,918	205,282
1997	1,583,600	1,374,772	208,828
1998	1,559,100	1,364,810	194,290
1999	1,557,100	1,367,561	189,539
2000	1,579,566	1,387,138	192,428
2001	1,586,902	1,391,666	195,236
2002	1,538,813	1,354,259	184,554
2003	1,678,192	1,482,724	195,468

Note: Prior to 2000, the FBI rounded estimated total numbers to the nearest 100.

Table 5.2

Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of Juveniles by Sale/Manufacturing and Possession by Drug Type by Year (1994-2003)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total,	159,058	188,869	205,282	208,828	194,290	189,539	192,428	195,236	184,554	195,468
Sale/Manufacturing (Subtotal)	41,675	43,119	44,881	41,325	38,463	35,694	34,696	32,791	30,519	31,895
Opium or Cocaine	25,860	24,270	24,070	21,300	19,806	17,327	14,439	14,015	12,204	11,385
Marijuana	11,223	13,522	15,843	15,057	14,182	14,710	15,479	14,038	13,766	15,178
Synthetic Narcotics	594	890	851	901	1,067	986	1,240	1,212	1,346	1,513
Dangerous Nonnarcotics	3,997	4,437	4,118	4,067	3,408	2,672	3,538	3,527	3,203	3,820
Possession (Subtotal)	117,384	145,750	160,401	167,503	155,827	153,845	157,732	162,445	154,034	163,573
Opium or Cocaine	26,723	26,873	24,202	24,622	21,360	18,363	16,521	15,610	15,157	14,408
Marijuana	77,701	103,822	121,103	126,344	120,022	122,271	125,611	129,159	118,519	127,524
Synthetic Narcotics	1,567	2,592	2,365	2,669	2,514	2,159	2,694	2,976	3,876	4,166
Dangerous Nonnarcotics	11,393	12,464	12,732	13,867	11,932	11,051	12,906	14,700	16,483	17,474

¹Because of rounding, the estimated number of arrests for each drug category may not add to total.

Figure 5.1

Percent Distribution of the Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of Juveniles by Drug Type, 1994-2003

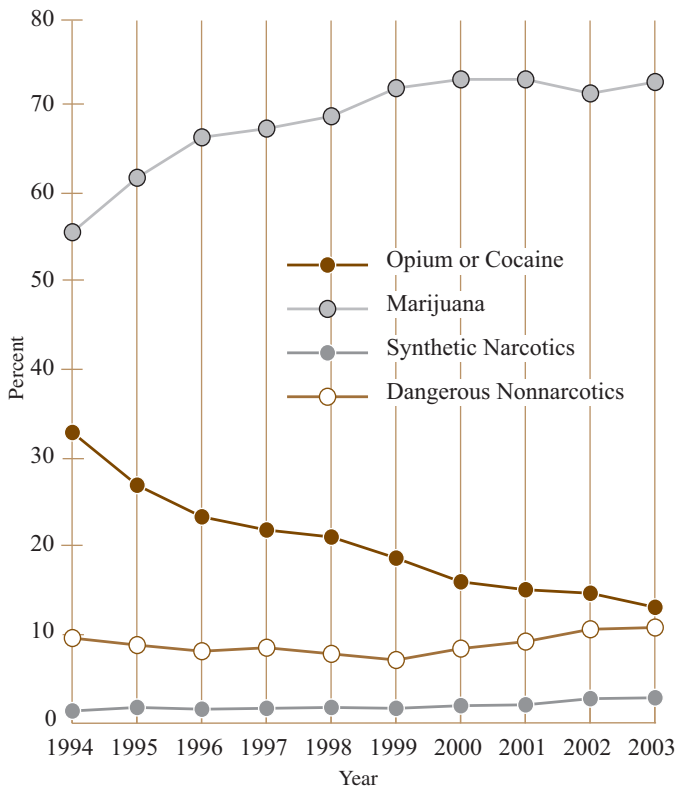


Table 5.3

Percent Distribution of the Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of Juveniles by Arrestee's Sex and Age Group (1994-2003)

Year	Sex	Under 10	10 to 12	13 to 14	15	16	17
1994	Male	0.2	1.4	12.1	16.1	25.1	33.4
	Female	*	0.4	2.6	2.4	3.0	3.5
1995	Male	0.2	1.4	11.9	16.2	25.0	32.9
	Female	*	0.4	2.7	2.6	3.1	3.7
1996	Male	0.1	1.5	11.9	15.6	24.4	33.1
	Female	*	0.4	2.9	2.6	3.4	4.0
1997	Male	0.2	1.4	11.5	15.0	24.7	33.6
	Female	*	0.4	2.7	2.6	3.4	4.4
1998	Male	0.2	1.3	10.6	14.7	24.7	34.7
	Female	*	0.3	2.5	2.6	3.7	4.6
1999	Male	0.2	1.3	10.7	14.3	24.5	34.5
	Female	*	0.4	2.7	2.6	3.8	4.9
2000	Male	0.2	1.4	11.1	14.4	23.5	34.8
	Female	*	0.4	2.9	2.8	3.7	5.0
2001	Male	0.2	1.6	11.3	14.6	23.7	32.9
	Female	*	0.5	3.2	2.9	4.0	5.0
2002	Male	0.2	1.5	11.1	14.0	23.4	33.3
	Female	*	0.5	3.2	3.1	4.3	5.3
2003	Male	0.2	1.6	11.6	14.1	22.3	33.0
	Female	0.1	0.5	3.5	3.3	4.2	5.7

* Less than one-tenth of 1 percent.

period 1994 to 2003. The reader should know that the details collected by the UCR Program concerning the arrests made by law enforcement for drug abuse violations include the type of drug involved, differentiating between sale/manufacturing and possession of the following four drug categories: opium or cocaine and their derivatives (e.g. morphine, heroin, codeine); marijuana; synthetic narcotics—manufactured narcotics which can cause true drug addiction (e.g. Demerol, methadone); and dangerous nonnarcotic drugs (e.g. barbiturates, Benzedrine). This study uses these categories and definitions as well.

Finally, for this paper, the term *drug abuse* encompasses sale/manufacturing and possession, unless otherwise stated. In addition, the number of arrests implies *estimated* values. For convenience and ease of reading, *opium or cocaine* will be used for the category opium or cocaine and their derivatives.

Analysis

Of the total number (15,416,973) of arrests for drug abuse violations during the decade (1994–2003) examined for this study, 12.4 percent were of juveniles (persons under age 18). (See Table 5.1.) The following text provides an analysis of the data furnished to the UCR Program concerning those arrests.

By Age

Law enforcement agencies made over 1.9 million arrests of juveniles for drug abuse violations from 1994 to 2003. The data further revealed that in 1994, persons under 18 accounted for 11.8 percent of the number of arrests for drug abuse. Ten years later, the juvenile proportion of arrests for drug abuse violations was virtually unchanged: 11.6 percent. (Based on Table 5.1.) In addition, the data provided by the arresting agencies showed that in 1997, the Nation experienced the highest number of arrests of juveniles for drug abuse violations for the 10-year period under consideration. During that year, nearly 209,000 arrests of juveniles were made for either the sale/manufacture or possession of illegal drugs. (See Tables 5.1 and 5.2.)

A breakdown of the data showed that the majority (ranging from 73.8 percent in 1994 to 83.7 percent in 2003) of the arrests of juveniles for the period studied were for possession of drugs rather than the sale or manufacturing of illegal substances. (Based on Table 5.2.) Over the 10-year span, the number of arrests of juveniles for violations involving opium or cocaine declined, while arrests involving marijuana increased. Marijuana remained the drug type associated with the highest percentage of juveniles arrested for drug abuse. Arrests of juveniles for violations involving synthetic narcotics and dangerous nonnarcotics consistently accounted for the

lowest percentage of juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations for the 10-year period. (See Figure 5.1.)

A review of the arrest data from 1994 to 2003 showed that the overall number of arrests of juveniles for drug abuse violations increased 22.9 percent. The number of arrests involving each drug type, with the exception of opium or cocaine, increased during the decade. Arrests for violations involving marijuana rose 60.5 percent, arrests involving synthetic narcotics increased 162.8 percent—the highest propor-

tional increase, and arrests involving dangerous nonnarcotics rose 38.4 percent. Arrests of juveniles for violations involving opium or cocaine, however, declined 50.9 percent when comparing the number of arrests for drug abuse for 2003 with the number for 1994. (Based on Tables 5.1 and 5.2.)

A comparison of data concerning arrests for drug abuse from 1999 and 2003, a five-year trend, indicated the number of arrests of juveniles for violations involving marijuana increased 4.2 percent, arrests of juveniles involved with synthetic narcotics increased 80.6 percent, and arrests of juveniles involved with dangerous nonnarcotics increased 55.2 percent. Arrests of juveniles for violations involving opium or cocaine decreased 27.7 percent during this period. (Based on Table 5.2.)

During the two-year period from 2002 to 2003, the number of arrests of juveniles for violations involving marijuana, synthetic narcotics, and dangerous nonnarcotics increased 7.9 percent, 8.8 percent, and 8.2 percent, respectively. However, the number of arrests of juveniles involved with opium or cocaine declined 5.7 percent. (Based on Table 5.2.)

A review of the arrest data for 2003 revealed that the overall number of arrests of juveniles for the sale/manufacturing or possession of marijuana accounted for over 7 out of every 10 arrests of juveniles for drug abuse. Arrests for the sale/manufacturing or possession of marijuana accounted for 73.0 percent of the arrests of juveniles for drug abuse violations, followed by opium or cocaine with 13.2 percent of the arrests, dangerous nonnarcotics with 10.9 percent, and synthetic narcotics with 2.9 percent. (Based on Table 5.2.)

Table 5.4

Percent Distribution of the Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of Juveniles by Arrestee's Sex within each Age Group (1994-2003)

Year	Sex	Under 10	10 to 12	13 to 14	15	16	17
1994	Male	83.0	78.7	82.6	87.2	89.5	90.5
	Female	17.0	21.3	17.4	12.8	10.5	9.5
1995	Male	84.0	77.1	81.2	86.2	88.9	89.9
	Female	16.0	22.9	18.8	13.8	11.1	10.1
1996	Male	80.0	78.1	80.2	85.8	87.7	89.2
	Female	20.0	21.9	19.8	14.2	12.3	10.8
1997	Male	86.8	76.7	81.0	85.3	87.8	88.4
	Female	13.2	23.3	19.0	14.7	12.2	11.6
1998	Male	77.4	79.2	80.8	85.1	87.1	88.3
	Female	22.6	20.8	19.2	14.9	12.9	11.7
1999	Male	85.8	78.1	80.0	84.4	86.6	87.5
	Female	14.2	21.9	20.0	15.6	13.4	12.5
2000	Male	86.1	77.4	79.4	83.9	86.3	87.5
	Female	13.9	22.6	20.6	16.1	13.7	12.5
2001	Male	81.0	76.2	77.9	83.2	85.6	86.9
	Female	19.0	23.8	22.1	16.8	14.4	13.1
2002	Male	82.8	75.4	77.5	81.7	84.5	86.2
	Female	17.2	24.6	22.5	18.3	15.5	13.8
2003	Male	78.9	75.4	77.1	81.2	84.2	85.3
	Female	21.1	24.6	22.9	18.8	15.8	14.7

Table 5.5

Percent Distribution of the Total Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of Male Juveniles by Age Group and Female Juveniles by Age Group (1994-2003)

Year	Sex	Under 10	10 to 12	13 to 14	15	16	17
1994	Male	0.2	1.6	13.8	18.2	28.4	37.9
	Female	0.3	3.1	21.8	20.0	25.1	29.8
1995	Male	0.2	1.6	13.6	18.5	28.6	37.6
	Female	0.2	3.2	21.9	20.5	24.8	29.3
1996	Male	0.2	1.7	13.7	18.0	28.2	38.2
	Female	0.3	3.0	21.9	19.2	25.6	29.9
1997	Male	0.2	1.6	13.3	17.4	28.6	38.9
	Female	0.2	3.2	19.9	19.1	25.3	32.4
1998	Male	0.2	1.5	12.3	17.1	28.7	40.3
	Female	0.4	2.5	18.3	18.7	26.7	33.5
1999	Male	0.2	1.6	12.5	16.7	28.6	40.3
	Female	0.2	2.6	18.5	18.2	26.3	34.2
2000	Male	0.2	1.6	13.0	16.8	27.5	40.9
	Female	0.2	2.7	19.4	18.7	25.2	33.8
2001	Male	0.2	1.9	13.4	17.3	28.1	39.0
	Female	0.2	3.2	20.6	18.8	25.6	31.6
2002	Male	0.2	1.8	13.3	16.8	28.1	39.8
	Female	0.3	3.0	19.4	19.0	26.0	32.3
2003	Male	0.2	2.0	14.0	17.0	27.0	39.8
	Female	0.3	3.1	20.1	18.9	24.5	33.1

By Age and Sex

A review of the data for the number of arrests of juveniles for drug abuse violations for each sex and age group showed that, as expected, juveniles 12 years of age and younger comprised the lowest percentage of arrests of juveniles for each year of the 10-year period covered. An examination of the data by sex showed that a lower percentage of female juveniles were arrested than were male juveniles for each age group. The group showing the highest percentage of arrests for each year during the 10-year period was 17-year-old males. (See Table 5.3.)

The data for the 10 years covered in this study showed that of the number of arrests in 1994 for drug abuse violations involving juveniles under age 10, 83.0 percent were males and 17.0 percent were females. A decade later, the percentage of arrests for drug abuse violations of males under age 10 dropped to 78.9 percent, and the percentage of arrests of females increased to 21.1 percent. (See Table 5.4.)

An examination of the data for all juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations within sex and by each age group

Table 5.6

Percent Distribution of the Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of Juveniles by Drug Type and Arrestee's Sex (1994-2003)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Drug</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1994	All Drug Types	88.2	11.8
	Opium or Cocaine	91.4	8.6
	Marijuana	87.0	13.0
	Synthetic Narcotics	81.8	18.2
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	85.4	14.6
1995	All Drug Types	87.4	12.6
	Opium or Cocaine	90.8	9.2
	Marijuana	86.7	13.3
	Synthetic Narcotics	83.5	16.5
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	83.1	16.9
1996	All Drug Types	86.6	13.4
	Opium or Cocaine	90.0	10.0
	Marijuana	86.1	13.9
	Synthetic Narcotics	82.0	18.0
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	82.5	17.5
1997	All Drug Types	86.4	13.6
	Opium or Cocaine	89.0	11.0
	Marijuana	86.3	13.7
	Synthetic Narcotics	81.0	19.0
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	81.6	18.4
1998	All Drug Types	86.2	13.8
	Opium or Cocaine	88.4	11.6
	Marijuana	86.2	13.8
	Synthetic Narcotics	82.2	17.8
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	81.2	18.8
1999	All Drug Types	85.5	14.5
	Opium or Cocaine	87.6	12.4
	Marijuana	85.7	14.3
	Synthetic Narcotics	79.5	20.5
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	79.9	20.1
2000	All Drug Types	85.3	14.7
	Opium or Cocaine	87.8	12.2
	Marijuana	85.6	14.4
	Synthetic Narcotics	76.0	24.0
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	79.8	20.2
2001	All Drug Types	84.3	15.7
	Opium or Cocaine	86.3	13.7
	Marijuana	85.0	15.0
	Synthetic Narcotics	74.3	25.7
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	78.4	21.6
2002	All Drug Types	83.5	16.5
	Opium or Cocaine	85.4	14.6
	Marijuana	84.4	15.6
	Synthetic Narcotics	74.1	25.9
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	77.2	22.8
2003	All Drug Types	82.8	17.2
	Opium or Cocaine	84.3	15.7
	Marijuana	84.0	16.0
	Synthetic Narcotics	72.7	27.3
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	75.9	24.1

Table 5.7

Percent Change in the Number of Estimated Drug Arrests of Juveniles by Drug Type and Arrestee's Sex 2-, 5-, and 10-year Comparisons

	2003/2002		2003/1999		2003/1994	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	All Drug Types	5.1	10.2	-0.2	22.6	15.4
Opium or Cocaine	-7.0	1.5	-30.5	-8.5	-54.8	-10.7
Marijuana	7.4	10.7	2.1	16.8	54.9	97.7
Synthetic Narcotics	6.7	14.7	64.9	141.3	133.6	293.6
Dangerous Nonnarcotics	6.3	14.4	47.4	86.3	23.0	127.9

showed that a higher proportion of female juveniles were arrested at a younger age (15 and under) than were male juveniles. This held true for each year of the 10-year period considered in this study. (See Table 5.5.) The number of arrests of male juveniles for drug abuse violations accounted for over 80.0 percent of the total number of arrests of juveniles for drug abuse; however, the number decreased slightly over the 10-year period. In contrast, arrests of female juveniles marginally increased over the 10-year period, but remained under 20.0 percent of the total. (See Table 5.6.)

Arrests of male juveniles invariably account for the largest proportion of the arrests of juveniles for drug abuse violations— 82.8 percent to 88.2 percent of the total arrests during the 10-year span of this study. When the sex of the arrestees within drug type was compared, the data showed that male juveniles composed a greater percentage of the total arrests for violations involving opium or cocaine, followed by violations involving marijuana. This held true for all 10 years studied. A year-by-year review of the arrest data involving synthetic narcotics and dangerous nonnarcotics by sex of the arrestees within drug type showed that from 1994 to 1998, violations involving these two drug types were consistently the third and fourth most frequent cause of arrest (and they often exchanged positions). From 1999 to 2003, the percentage of male juveniles arrested for violations involving synthetic narcotics proportionally followed dangerous nonnarcotics in percentage of arrests. (See Table 5.6.)

For the 10-, five-, and two-year periods examined for this study, the data reflected that the percent of change in the number of arrests of female juveniles for all drug types combined was larger than that for male juveniles, although male juveniles were more frequently arrested than female juveniles for violations involving each of the four drug types. (See Tables 5.6 and 5.7.) With the exception of violations involving opium or cocaine, the percent of change for arrests involving each of the four drug types by sex showed that the percentage increase for the arrests of female juveniles was much higher than the percentage increase in the number of arrests for male juveniles. There was a decrease in the

number of arrests of both female and male juveniles for the 10- and five-year periods for violations involving opium or cocaine. The number of arrests of male juveniles for drug abuse violations involving each drug type (except opium or cocaine) increased in 2003 when compared to the number in 2002. The number of arrests of male juveniles for violations involving opium or cocaine decreased 7.0 percent when comparing the data from this two-year period. Arrests of female juveniles for drug abuse violations increased for each drug type. Interestingly, arrests of female juveniles for drug abuse violations involving opium or cocaine increased 1.5 percent in contrast to the male juvenile experience, which showed a decrease for the same period. (See Table 5.7.)

Marijuana was the drug for which more male juveniles were arrested than for any other drug type each year from 1994 to 2003. Male juveniles arrested for the sale/manufacturing and possession of marijuana combined increased from 55.1 percent of the arrests of male juveniles in 1994 to 74.0 percent in 2003. Arrests of male juveniles for violations involving opium or cocaine fell from 34.2 percent of the arrests of male juveniles for drugs in 1994 to 13.4 percent in 2003. The percentage of arrests of male juveniles for viola-

tions involving dangerous nonnarcotic drugs was nearly equal to the percentage of arrests of male juveniles for violations involving opium or cocaine in 2003. (See Figure 5.2.)

Similarly, arrests for violations involving marijuana accounted for the highest percentage of arrests of female juveniles for drug abuse violations for each year of the 10 years under consideration. The percentage of arrests of female juveniles for violations involving opium or cocaine decreased from 1994 to 2003. The percentage of arrests of female juveniles for violations involving dangerous nonnarcotics was higher than that of opium or cocaine for 2002 and 2003. (See Figure 5.3.)

By Age and Race

The four race categories for which data are collected by the UCR Program are white, black, American Indian or Alaskan Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander. A review of the percent distribution of arrests within drug type by the arrestee's race showed that for all drug types combined, white juvenile arrestees accounted for 60.6 percent of the total in 1994; the number rose 23.6 percent to 74.9 percent of the total in 2003. Conversely, the percent of arrestees who were black juveniles fell 39.4 percent for all drug types combined, from 38.1 percent

Figure 5.2

Percent Distribution of the Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of Male Juveniles by Drug Type, 1994-2003

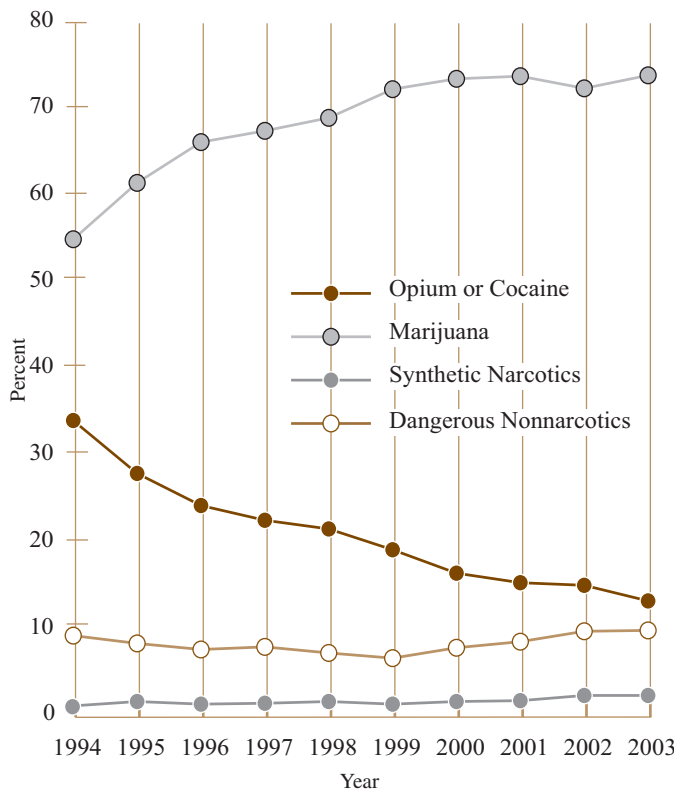


Figure 5.3

Percent Distribution of the Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of Female Juveniles by Drug Type, 1994-2003

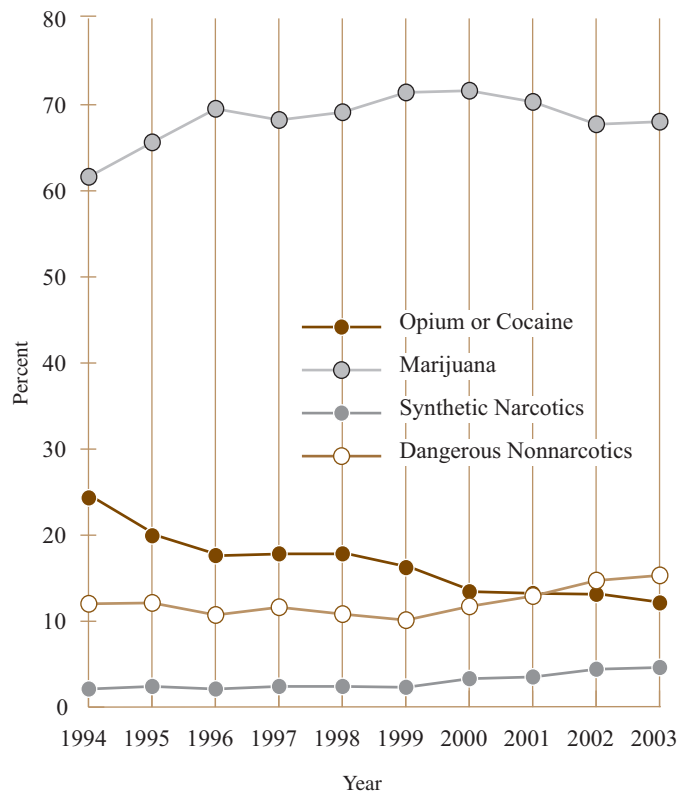


Table 5.8**Percent Distribution of the Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of Juveniles by Drug Type and Arrestee's Race (1994-2003)**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Drug</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>American Indian or Alaskan Native</i>	<i>Asian or Pacific Islander</i>
1994	All Drug Types	60.6	38.1	0.5	0.8
	Opium or Cocaine	32.7	66.8	0.1	0.3
	Marijuana	75.5	22.7	0.7	1.1
	Synthetic Narcotics	81.0	17.6	0.7	0.8
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	66.6	31.9	0.7	0.8
1995	All Drug Types	63.4	35.1	0.6	0.9
	Opium or Cocaine	33.8	65.6	0.2	0.4
	Marijuana	74.7	23.4	0.8	1.1
	Synthetic Narcotics	76.2	21.8	1.3	0.7
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	71.5	26.8	0.9	0.8
1996	All Drug Types	66.1	32.2	0.7	1.0
	Opium or Cocaine	35.6	63.7	0.3	0.5
	Marijuana	75.7	22.2	0.9	1.2
	Synthetic Narcotics	83.7	14.5	1.0	0.7
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	72.2	26.4	0.7	0.8
1997	All Drug Types	66.6	31.6	0.8	1.0
	Opium or Cocaine	37.5	61.7	0.3	0.4
	Marijuana	74.6	23.4	0.9	1.1
	Synthetic Narcotics	74.4	23.8	0.8	1.1
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	77.0	21.0	0.7	1.2
1998	All Drug Types	67.4	30.8	0.8	1.0
	Opium or Cocaine	38.9	60.4	0.3	0.4
	Marijuana	75.2	22.7	0.9	1.2
	Synthetic Narcotics	74.0	23.9	1.2	0.8
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	74.7	23.2	1.0	1.0
1999	All Drug Types	69.6	28.6	0.8	1.0
	Opium or Cocaine	39.1	59.8	0.5	0.6
	Marijuana	76.2	21.8	0.9	1.1
	Synthetic Narcotics	82.9	14.2	1.6	1.2
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	80.2	17.9	1.1	0.9
2000	All Drug Types	71.1	27.1	0.8	1.0
	Opium or Cocaine	40.4	58.7	0.4	0.6
	Marijuana	76.6	21.4	0.8	1.1
	Synthetic Narcotics	81.8	15.8	1.3	1.1
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	79.2	18.7	0.9	1.1
2001	All Drug Types	72.8	25.3	0.8	1.1
	Opium or Cocaine	41.3	57.6	0.5	0.6
	Marijuana	77.8	20.1	0.9	1.2
	Synthetic Narcotics	88.6	9.0	1.3	1.2
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	80.7	17.3	1.0	1.0
2002	All Drug Types	74.9	23.1	0.9	1.2
	Opium or Cocaine	41.9	56.8	0.6	0.6
	Marijuana	80.0	17.7	0.9	1.3
	Synthetic Narcotics	86.6	11.2	0.9	1.3
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	82.9	15.2	0.8	1.1
2003	All Drug Types	74.9	23.1	0.9	1.0
	Opium or Cocaine	43.0	55.8	0.6	0.6
	Marijuana	78.9	19.0	1.0	1.1
	Synthetic Narcotics	86.9	10.9	1.2	0.9
	Dangerous Nonnarcotics	83.4	14.5	1.0	1.0

in 1994 to 23.1 percent in 2003. (Based on Table 5.8.) The percent of other races (American Indian or Alaskan Native and Asian or Pacific Islander) combined accounted for a minimal portion of juvenile arrestees when compared to the percentage of white and black juveniles arrested. In 1994, other races accounted for 1.3 percent, and in 2003, that percentage rose to 1.9 percent for all drug types combined. (Based on Table 5.8.)

An examination of the percent of arrests by race within drug type showed that black juveniles were more likely to be arrested for violations involving opium or cocaine than any other racial group. Whites were more likely to be arrested for violations involving the other three drug categories. The proportion of white juveniles arrested rose 25.2 percent from 66.6 percent of the arrests for violations involving dangerous nonnarcotics in 1994 to 83.4 percent in 2003. (Based on Table 5.8.)

An analysis of the data for 1994 and 2003 showed that the number of arrests of black juveniles for drug abuse violations decreased 25.6 percent for all drug types combined. The number of arrests of black juveniles fell 59.2 percent for violations involving opium or cocaine. Similarly, the number of arrests of white and Asian or Pacific Islander juveniles declined for violations involving opium or cocaine. The number of arrests of juveniles for violations involving marijuana and synthetic nonnarcotics increased for all races. Arrests involving dangerous nonnarcotics increased for each racial category except black. (See Table 5.9.)

When arrests for drug abuse violations for 2003 were compared to those in 1999, the number of arrests of black juveniles for drug abuse violations showed a decrease for all drug categories combined (16.7 percent); arrests of black juveniles also decreased for violations involving opium or cocaine (32.9 percent), and marijuana (9.5 percent). The number of arrests of juveniles declined for each of the other three racial groups for violations involving opium or cocaine. The number of arrests of juveniles of each race, with the exception of arrests of black juveniles for violations involving marijuana, increased for violations involving marijuana, synthetic narcotics, and dangerous nonnarcotics. (See Table 5.9.)

A review of the data for the two-year period of 2002 to 2003 revealed that the number of arrests of juveniles for violations involving all drugs combined decreased 9.7 percent for juveniles who were Asian or Pacific Islander. Each race showed a decrease in the number of arrests of juveniles for violations involving opium or cocaine. Although the number of drug-related arrests of juveniles who were Asian or Pacific Islanders declined 9.9 percent for marijuana and 26.3 percent for synthetic narcotics for 2003 over 2002, the number of arrests of juveniles of all other racial categories increased for those drug types for the same two-year period. The number of

Table 5.9

Percent Change in the Number of Estimated Drug Arrests of Juveniles by Drug Type and Arrestee’s Race 2-, 5-, and 10-Year Comparisons

	2003/2002				2003/1999				2003/1994			
	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
All Drug Types	6.0	6.1	14.1	-9.7	11.0	-16.7	16.7	3.7	51.9	-25.6	130.6	56.1
Opium or Cocaine	-3.7	-7.8	-17.8	-17.0	-21.0	-32.9	-15.5	-32.5	-35.9	-59.2	133.4	-22.9
Marijuana	6.5	15.7	15.2	-9.9	8.0	-9.5	17.5	1.9	67.8	34.1	130.4	65.5
Synthetic Narcotics	7.6	4.5	53.1	-26.3	86.4	36.7	38.1	33.1	179.0	62.1	357.6	208.0
Dangerous Nonnarcotics	9.2	3.6	29.7	3.2	61.9	26.7	39.7	77.9	73.5	-36.9	97.1	81.1

arrests of juveniles of each race rose for violations involving dangerous nonnarcotics. (See Table 5.9.)

From 1994 to 2003, the 10 years of the study, the percentage of arrests of white juveniles for violations involving marijuana was, in every year, higher than for any other drug type. From 1994 to 1999, opium or cocaine violations were the second most common type leading to the arrest of white juveniles. However, beginning in 2000 and continuing until 2003, the final year of the study, the percentage of arrests of white juveniles for violations involving dangerous nonnarcotics became the second most common drug type leading to arrest. (See Figure 5.4.)

As previously observed, an examination of the data within drug type by arrestee’s race for 1994 to 2003 showed that black juveniles were proportionally more likely to be arrested for violations involving opium or cocaine for each of the 10 years when compared to the other races. (See Table 5.8.) In contrast, when the data by drug type for arrests of black juveniles for each year during the period under consideration were analyzed, the percentage of arrests for violations involving opium or cocaine fell below the percentage of arrests for marijuana in 1997 and remained below through 2003. (See Figure 5.5.)

For each of the 10 years examined for this study, the highest percentage of arrests of juveniles of the race categories of American Indian or Alaskan Natives and Asian or Pacific Islanders for drug abuse was for violations involving marijuana. The percentages of arrests of juveniles in those two race categories for violations involving opium or cocaine and dangerous nonnarcotics varied higher and lower than one another several times during the 10-year period. Violations involving synthetic narcotics accounted for the lowest percentage of juvenile arrests for those two races. (See Figures 5.6 and 5.7.)

Limitations

One limitation to this study is the fact that participating in the FBI’s UCR Program is voluntary, and therefore, many

agencies provide fewer than 12 months of arrest data to the Program. As a result, the actual arrest counts received by the Program must be estimated to account for those agencies that submit fewer than 12 months of arrest data for any given year. Another limitation to the data used in this study is the inclusion of the race of the arrestee and the drug breakdowns are not mandatory elements on participating agencies’ arrest reports; therefore, the number of arrests that include race and drug breakdowns is generally lower than the arrest counts by age and sex. The agencies that contribute data to the FBI

Figure 5.4

Percent Distribution of the Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of White Juveniles by Drug Type, 1994-2003

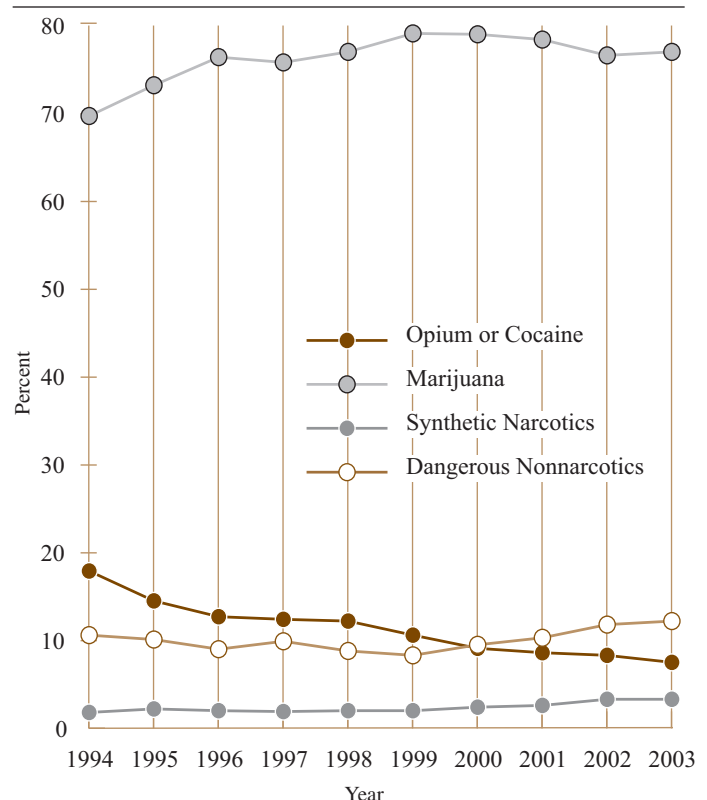
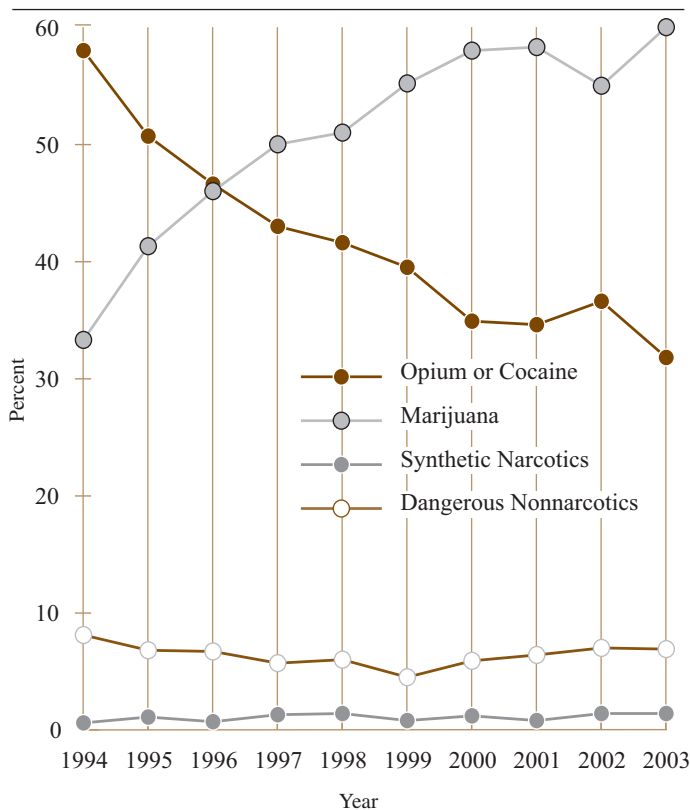


Figure 5.5

Percent Distribution of the Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of Black Juveniles, by Drug Type, 1994-2003



using the traditional Summary system are limited to collecting four drug categories with little specificity of drug type. (Currently, the UCR Program converts the data that are submitted through the Program’s National Incident-Based Reporting System to Summary data before publication.) In spite of these limitations, this study illustrates the attributes of juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations as reported to the UCR Program from 1994 to 2003.

Summary and Conclusion

Using basic statistics in tabular format and charts, this study presented the information received by the UCR Program over the 10-year period from 1994 to 2003 concerning the characteristics (i.e., the age, sex, and race) of juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations. In the past 10 years, the majority (68.7 percent) of the estimated number of arrests of juveniles for drug abuse violations (sale/manufacturing and possession combined) were for marijuana. A comparison of the number of arrests of juveniles for drug abuse violations in 2003 to that in 1994 showed that arrests of juveniles for violations involving marijuana increased 60.5 percent. The number of arrests of

juveniles for violations involving all drugs combined increased 22.9 percent from 1994 to 2003, with only arrests for violations involving opium or cocaine showing a decrease (50.9 percent) during the same period. In 1994, whites accounted for 60.6 percent of the juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations, increasing to 74.9 percent in 2003. In terms of sex, male juveniles were more often arrested for drug abuse violations than were female juveniles; however, female juveniles were shown to be arrested at a younger age than were male juveniles. By race within drug type, black juveniles comprised the majority of arrests for violations involving opium and cocaine. White juveniles accounted for the majority of arrests for violations involving the other three drug categories.

This study served to display the attributes of the juvenile arrestees for drug abuse violations. It was not intended for the purpose of explaining the causes behind any changes or trends for the 10-year period. More in-depth research utilizing more complex methodologies is necessary in order to determine any specific reasons for any trends in the number of arrests of juveniles for drug abuse violations.

Appendix

The UCR Program’s arrest data for drug abuse violations are available with breakdowns for the age and sex of the arrestees (both juveniles and adults). The races of the arrestees (both juveniles and adults) are also provided, but without specific age breakdowns. The numbers found on those UCR reports are the actual number of arrests. The FBI’s staff estimates the total number of arrests for drug abuse violations for those agencies that submitted fewer than 12 months of data. For this study, the estimated number of arrests for drug abuse violations for each year and the age, sex, and racial categories were determined in the following manner. First, the estimated total of all arrests for drug abuse violations combined was determined for each year. (See the methodology for Table 29 in Appendix I.) Next, the estimated total of arrests for drug abuse violations was divided by the actual reported total for each year to arrive at a value, or multiplier, for each year. Then, the multiplier for a given year was applied to each actual value of age and sex breakdowns on the reports for that same year to arrive at the estimated value for each category.

Example for Calculating the Estimated Number of Juveniles for Drug Abuse Violations for Age and Sex

$$A = 1994 \text{ Actual Total of Arrests of Juveniles for Drug Abuse Violations by Age and Sex} = 125,026$$
$$B = 1994 \text{ Actual Total of Arrests for Drug Abuse Violations by Age and Sex} = 1,062,252$$

Figure 5.6

Percent Distribution of the Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of American Indian or Alaskan Native Juveniles by Drug Type, 1994-2003

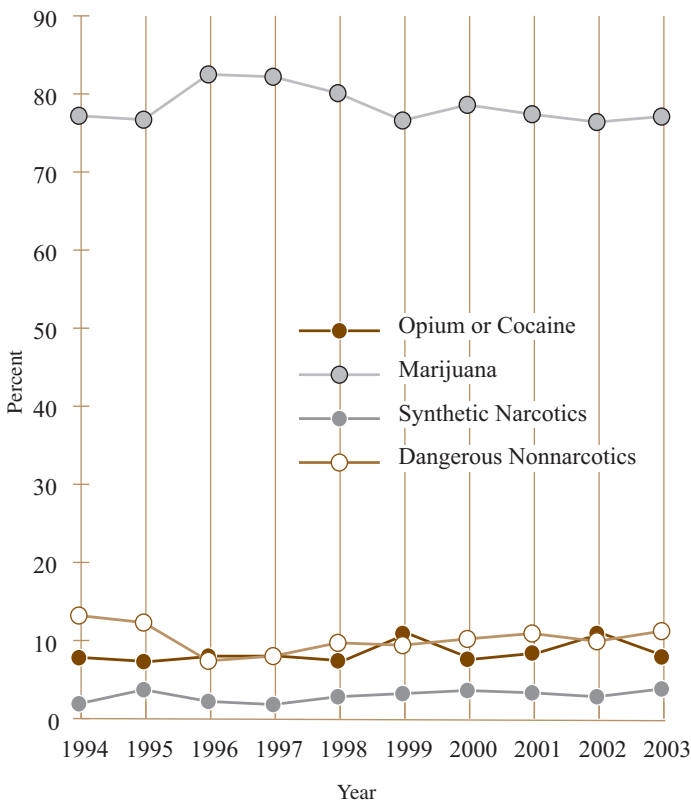
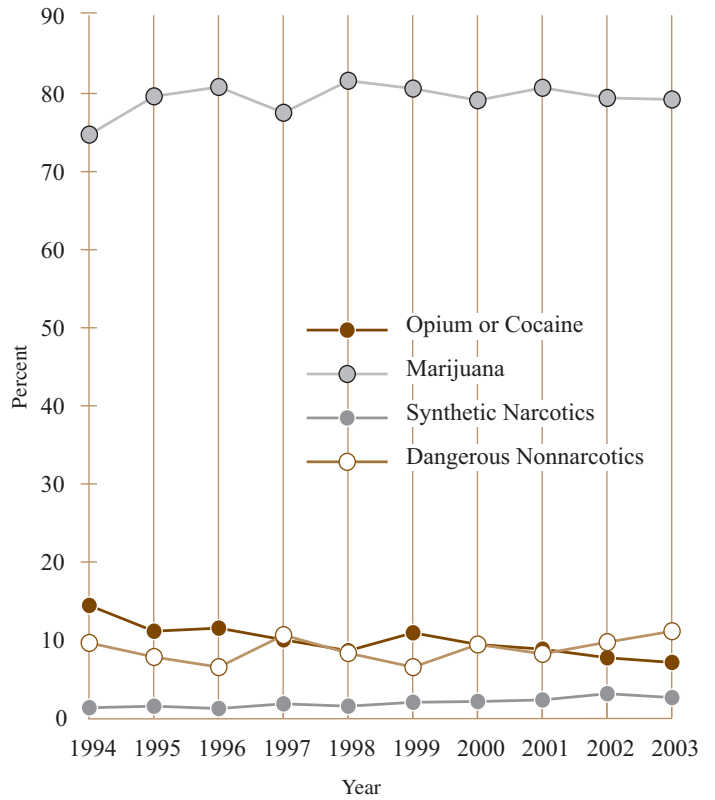


Figure 5.7

Percent Distribution of the Estimated Number of Drug Arrests of Asian or Pacific Islander Juveniles by Drug Type, 1994-2003



C = 1994 Estimated Total of Arrests for Drug Abuse Violations = 1,351,400

D = 1994 Estimated Total of Arrests of Juveniles for Drug Abuse Violations by Age and Sex = ?

Calculation

$$D = (C/B) (A) = (1,351,400/1,062,252) (125,026) = 159,058$$

Because providing the race of the arrestee is voluntary for law enforcement agencies that participate in the UCR Program, this information is often not included on the reports provided to the Program. Therefore, the actual arrest totals often differ from the totals on data that include age and sex information. The UCR staff used the same estimation procedure described above to estimate the total number of arrests for drug abuse violations. The Staff then used the estimated number of these arrests divided by the actual reported total of arrests for drug abuse violations by race for each year in order to determine the multiplier for estimating the arrests by race for a particular year. This second multiplier was then applied to the actual value in each racial category to determine the

estimated number of arrests for drug abuse violations for a given year by race. These new (estimated) values were used to produce the tables and charts in this study.

Example for Calculating the Estimated Number of Juveniles for Drug Abuse Violations for Race

A = 1994 Actual Total of Arrests of Juveniles for Drug Abuse Violations by Race = 124,931

B = 1994 Actual Total of Arrests for Drug Abuse Violations by Race = 1,061,563

C = 1994 Estimated Total of Arrests for Drug Abuse Violations = 1,351,400

D = 1994 Estimated Total of Arrests of Juveniles for Drug Abuse Violations by Race = ?

Calculation

$$D = (C/B) (A) = (1,351,400/1,061,563) (124,931) = 159,041$$

Infant Victims: An Exploratory Study

Utterly dependent on adults, infants are some of the most vulnerable individuals in our society. Despite the fact that society entrusts them to the care of adults, infants are occasionally the target of violence; they can also be incidental victims when violence occurs between other persons. This study explores the characteristics of and circumstances surrounding these criminal acts. It also includes an analysis of incidents indicating that additional victims are sometimes harmed during crimes of infant victimization.

This study uses data reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program through the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Although not nationally representative at this time, NIBRS is one of the few sources of information on the victimization of young children and especially infants. It also provides a higher level of detail than is presently available in the

UCR Summary reporting system, which presents summarized tallies of crimes. Through NIBRS, law enforcement agencies report incident-specific information. This level of detail enables crime analysts to investigate not only the intricate relationships between victim and offender but also the correlations between these relationships and offense information. However, NIBRS implementation by law enforcement nationwide is still incomplete, thus readers should use caution in generalizing the findings of this study to the Nation as a whole.

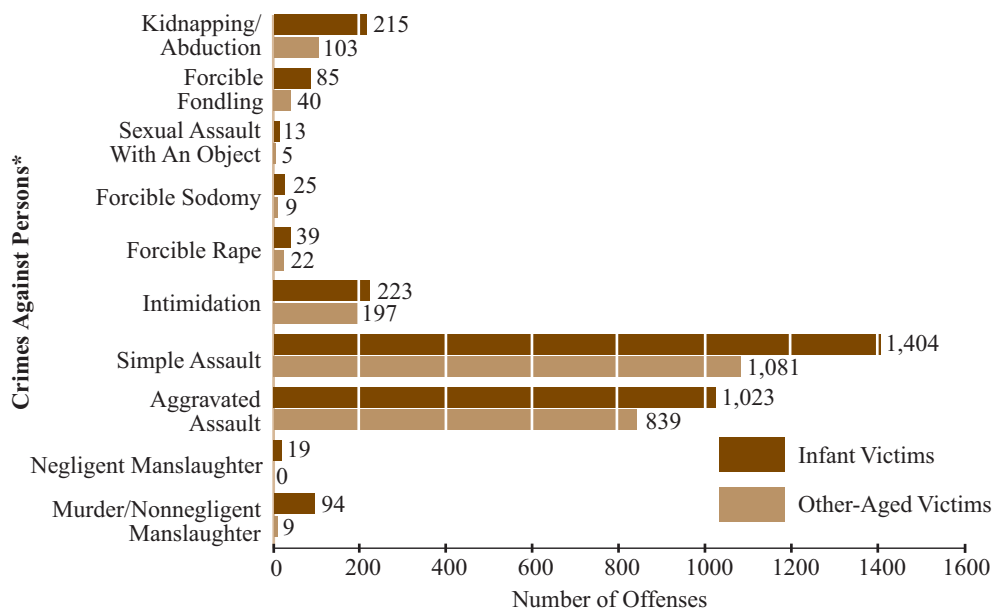
The NIBRS data used in this study are from the years 2001 through 2003 and reflect, on average, 16.7 percent of the crimes reported to the FBI overall. This study focuses on offense types classified as crimes against persons, excluding crimes that involve nonforcible sex. The nonforcible sex offenses of statutory rape and incest¹ require, by definition, some degree of consent; since

infants are incapable of consent, such offenses are excluded. The category of crimes against persons includes murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, negligent manslaughter, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, forcible fondling, and kidnapping/abduction.

In order to help detect underlying patterns, this study applies a variety of approaches and designations to the disaggregated data. For certain parts of the study, victims are classified into one of four age groups. Victims under 1 year old are grouped together as infants, and victims aged 1 through 10 years old are categorized as young children. Victims aged 11 through 17 years old are classified as preadolescent and adolescent minors; victims who are 18 years old and older are classified as adults.

Although NIBRS has the capability to collect crime data according to 20

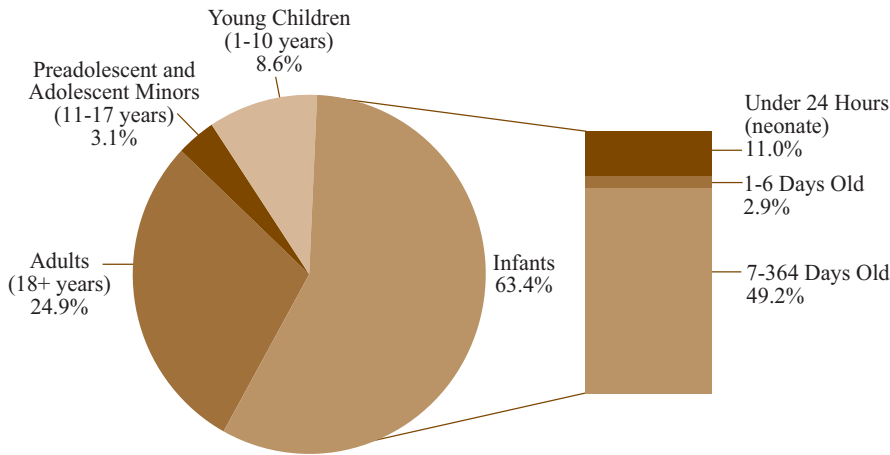
Figure 5.8
Offenses Related to Infant Victimizations, 2001-2003



*Listed according to NIBRS offense categories

Figure 5.9

Age of Victims Present at Infant Victimization



Note: Distribution based on 7,843 total victims

distinct types of location, for this study location types are reclassified into categories that reflect the possibility that someone unrelated to the offender might observe the crime. Areas considered private (or secluded) include residence/home, hotel/motel/etc., and jail/prison. With the exception of location types that are considered to be “other or unknown,” the remaining location types are considered public (or within view of the public).

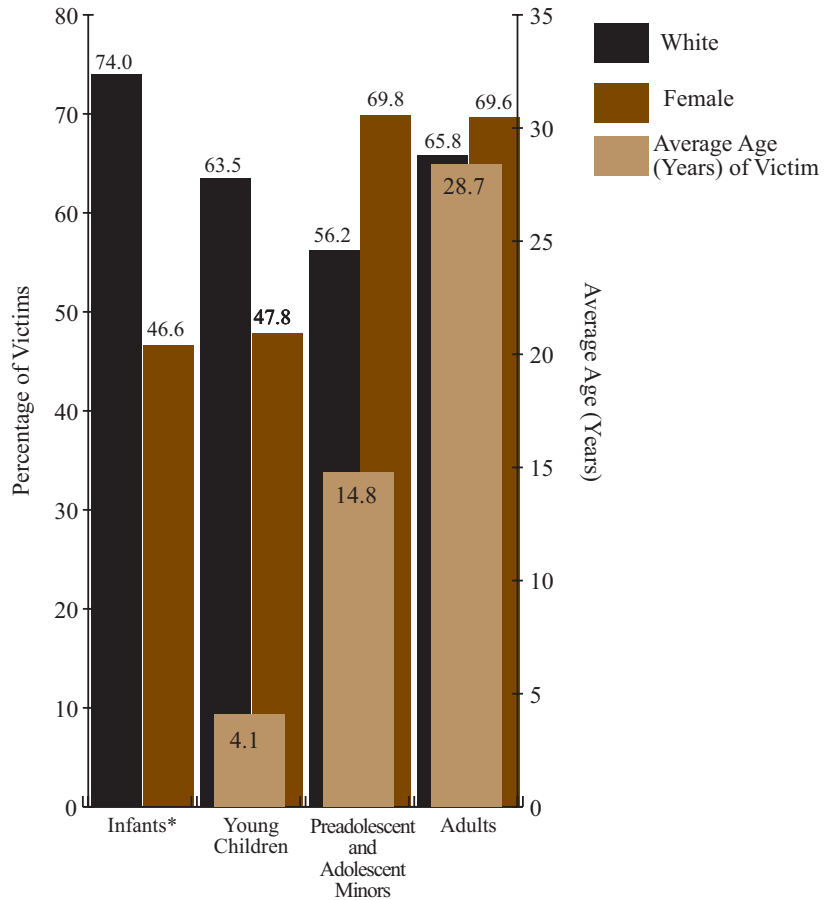
Figure 5.8 shows a breakdown of offenses that occurred against both the infant specifically and other victims that were present at the infant’s victimization and were at least 1 year old. The breakdowns illustrate the number and distribution of offenses. In the case of crimes against persons, the UCR Program counts one offense for every victim in an incident, thus creating a unique statistical connection between the offense and the victim. Most often, the offense committed against these victims is simple assault. From 2001 through 2003, law enforcement agencies reported 1,404 simple assaults committed against infants and

1,081 simple assaults committed against other victims present at the infant’s victimization. The next most common offense was that of aggravated assault (1,023 committed against infants; 839 committed against other victims).

During the time frame of this study (2001-2003), law enforcement agencies reported to the FBI 4,973 infant victims in the category of crimes against persons. This number represents 63.4 percent of the total number of victims in these incidents. (See Figure 5.9.) Even though the infants themselves constitute the majority of victims in the universe of incidents of interpersonal crime that include an infant victim, sometimes additional victims of other age groups are present

Figure 5.10

Characteristics of Victims, by Age Group of Victim



*The UCR Program defines infants as less than 1 year old.

Table 5.10**Number of Victims
by Type of Relationship with Offender**

<i>Relationship to Offender</i>	<i>Infants</i>	<i>Young Children</i>	<i>Preadolescent and Adolescent Minors</i>	<i>Adults</i>
Intimate Partners	0	0	39	691
Parental Roles	0	0	1	34
Dependents in the Household	2,095	398	44	29
Sibling Relationships	59	22	10	41
Other Family Relationships	169	62	8	105
Acquainted	555	109	97	497
Babysittee	103	10	1	0
Relationship Unknown	404	95	46	199
Stranger	232	90	31	206

at the infant's victimization. Concurrent with the infant victimizations, there were 2,870 victims of other ages. Adults make up the preponderance of these other victims (24.9 percent), followed by young children (8.6 percent) and preadolescent and adolescent minors (3.1 percent). Additionally, the age breakdown of the infant victims reveals noteworthy patterns. As would be expected, the majority of infant victims are in the age range of 7 to 364 days old (49.2 percent of the total). However, the age group having the second-highest risk is made up of neonates² (11.3 percent of the total) with those infants 1 to 6 days old having the least risk (2.9 percent of the total).

NIBRS collects data about the characteristics of victims in terms of age, gender, and race. (See Figure 5.10.) By assigning each victim to a category by age, one can more easily distinguish any differing patterns of the characteristics among these groups.

The vast majority of infant victims are white (74.0 percent). When others are victimized along with the infant, the percentage of whites decreases. This indicates that there is a higher presence of other races in these incidents. Data about other victims present at the infant's victimization show a higher presence of minorities. In the category of infant victims and victims between the ages of 1 and 10, there were approxi-

mately the same proportion of males and females. However, the older the associated victims are, the more likely they are to be female (69.8 percent for preadolescent and adolescent minors and 69.6 percent for adults). On average, the age data for minors victimized in these incidents show a slight bias toward younger ages. In the adult age group, the data for the average age of adult victims show a bias toward the lower end of the range of ages—as would be expected if the victims were the parents or caretakers of an infant.

NIBRS captures up to ten types of relationships between victim(s) and offender(s). These relationships reflect each unique combination of one victim and one offender within a crime incident. As a result, a victim can appear more than once in this table if more than one offender was involved in the incident. Data in Table 5.10 show the number of victims sorted by the type of victim-to-offender relationship. To facilitate the detection of patterns relating to each age group, this study uses aggregate categories that are more general than the categories coded in NIBRS.

Infant victims and the young children present at an infant's victimization are usually dependents in the household of the offender. The next-most-often relationship is when these victims are otherwise acquainted but not related to the offender. Older victims (i.e., preadolescent and adolescent minors) are more likely to be victimized by people acquainted with them rather than by individuals related to them. Finally, adult victims are usually an intimate partner of the offender. This result is consistent with the finding that infant and young child victims are dependents of the household—as would be expected in a domestic situation.

One of the advantages of gathering crime data through NIBRS is the ability to capture information on more than one type of offense that may occur in the course of a crime incident, information on multiple victims, and information on multiple offenders. NIBRS can record up to 10 different types of offenses, 999 victims, and 99 offenders. A simple analysis of the number of types of offenses and the number of victims and offenders reported within an incident showed noteworthy contrasts between those incidents with infant victims and those without. As shown in Table 5.11, incidents with infant victimizations are slightly more likely to have multiple offense types (11.9 percent compared with 8.1 percent) and multiple offenders (14.6 percent compared to 11.6 percent). Based on the data, incidents involving infants may have a slightly higher probability of involving more than one assailant or more than

Table 5.11**Number and Percent of Incidents
by Presence of Multiple Offense Types, Victims, or Offenders**

		<i>Offense Type</i>	<i>Victim</i>	<i>Offender</i>
No Infant Victimizations:	Percent with more than one	8.1%	13.9%	11.6%
	Total number	2,522,052	2,711,005	2,664,443
Infant Victimizations:	Percent with more than one	11.9%	45.5%	14.6%
	Total number	3,564	5,647	3,698

Figure 5.11

Number of Victims, by Injury Sustained

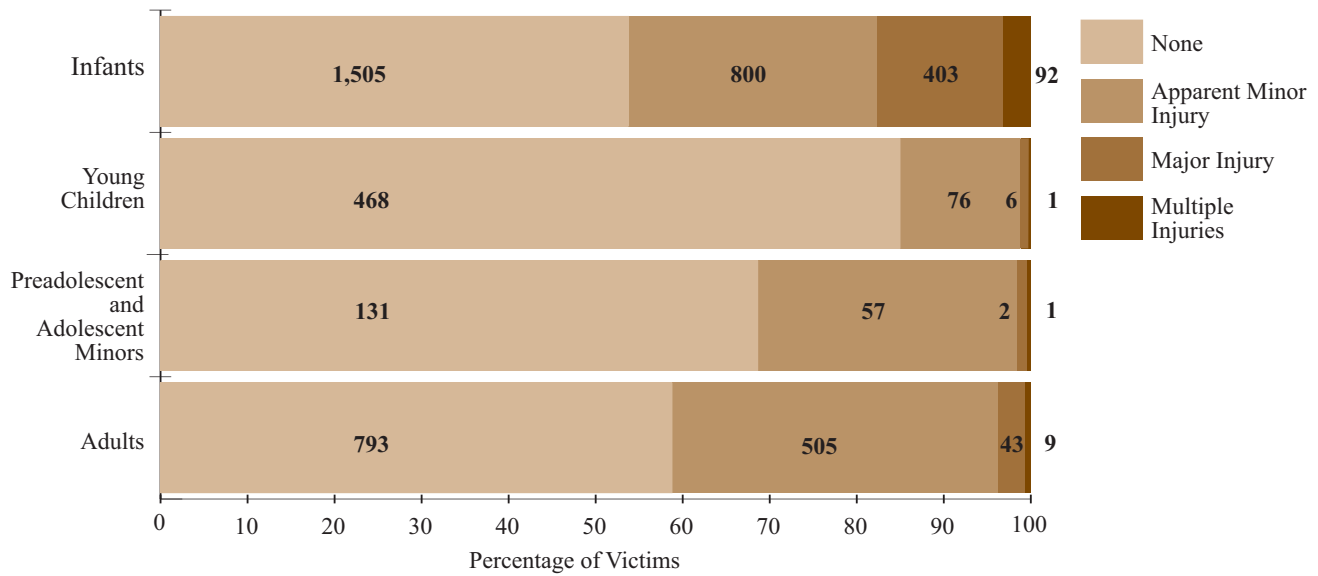


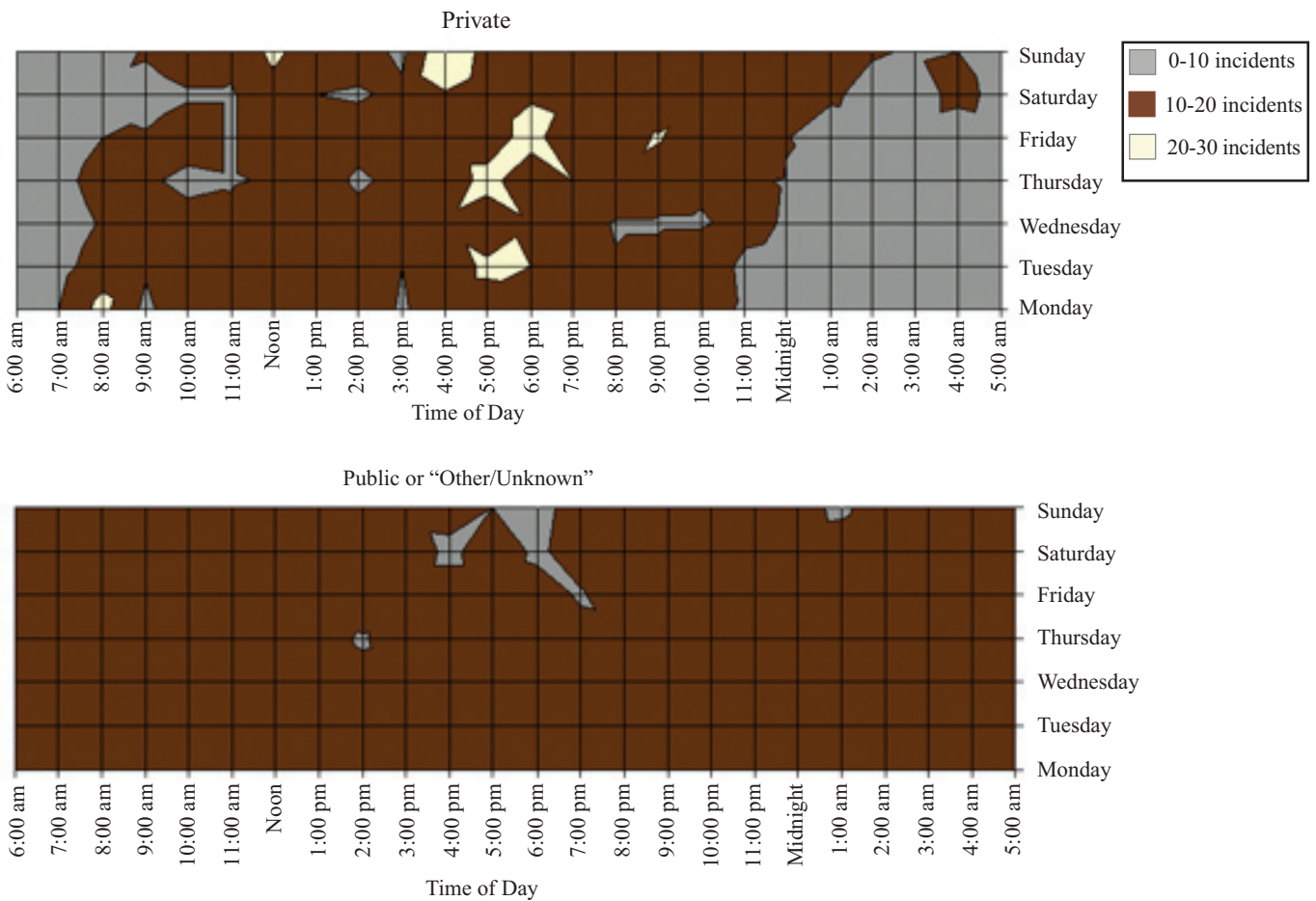
Table 5.12

Number of Offenses by Type of Weapon and Victim Age

	<i>Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter</i>	<i>Negligent Manslaughter</i>	<i>Forcible Rape</i>	<i>Forcible Sodomy</i>	<i>Sexual Assault with an Object</i>	<i>Forcible Fondling</i>	<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	<i>Simple Assault</i>	<i>Kidnapping/Abduction</i>	<i>Total</i>
Infants										
Firearm	3	0	0	0	0	0	121	0	16	140
Knife/Cutting Instrument	1	0	0	0	0	0	34	0	2	37
Blunt Object	2	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	0	50
Motor Vehicle	1	1	0	0	0	0	66	0	3	71
Personal Weapons (hands, feet, teeth, etc.)	47	4	15	9	4	40	393	1,049	71	1,632
Fire/Incendiary Device	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5
Drugs/Narcotics/Sleeping Pills	4	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	12
Asphyxiation	6	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	13
Poison (include gas)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Explosives	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Other	7	5	3	1	0	3	93	135	7	254
Multiple Weapons	5	0	0	1	0	0	56	26	7	95
Unknown	17	2	6	2	5	15	164	81	18	310
None	0	0	15	12	4	27	31	113	91	293
Total	94	19	39	25	13	85	1,023	1,404	215	2,917
Other Victims										
Firearm	2	0	1	0	0	1	390	0	19	413
Knife/Cutting Instrument	0	0	1	0	0	0	51	0	0	52
Blunt Object	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	0	0	52
Motor Vehicle	2	0	0	0	0	0	132	0	2	136
Personal Weapons (hands, feet, teeth, etc.)	2	0	9	2	4	21	78	869	32	1,017
Fire/Incendiary Device	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs/Narcotics/Sleeping Pills	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Asphyxiation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poison (include gas)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Explosives	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Other	0	0	2	0	0	3	46	93	2	146
Multiple Weapons	1	0	0	0	0	0	67	22	15	105
Unknown	2	0	0	0	0	5	10	31	10	58
None	0	0	9	7	1	10	10	66	23	126
Total	9	0	22	9	5	40	839	1,081	103	2,108
Grand Total	103	19	61	34	18	125	1,862	2,485	318	5,025

Figure 5.12

Crime Location



Note: Ranges reflect rounding to nearest whole number.

one type of offense. However, the contrast is more striking for the number of victims. The data show that 45.5 percent of incidents with infant victimization have more than one victim; in contrast, 13.9 percent of incidents with no infant victimization have multiple victims. This finding suggests that it is less common for the infant victim to be alone with his or her offender, regardless of whether the infant is the intended victim.

The NIBRS incident reports capture up to five types of injuries for each victim. For the present study, this data is grouped as follows: None, Apparent Minor Injury, Major Injury, and Multiple Injuries. In Figure 5.11, the category of multiple injuries reflects the number

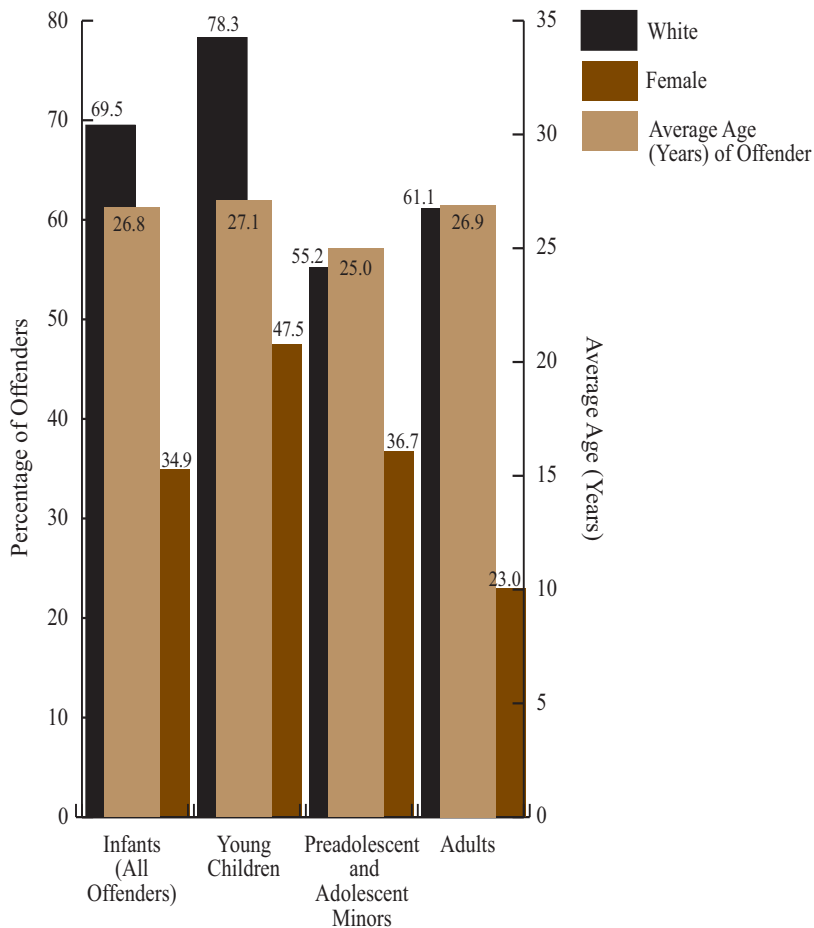
of victims in incidents for which law enforcement reported more than one type of injury. The figure shows the number of victims by the type of injury sustained for each of the age groups. The data show that although both adults (41.3 percent) and infants (46.3 percent) suffered an injury in 44.6 percent of the incidents, victims in the remaining age groups were less likely overall to receive an injury. Young children sustained no injury in 84.9 percent of the incidents, and preadolescent and adolescent minors sustained no injury in 68.6 percent of the incidents. The patterns of the injuries sustained within each age group demonstrate the particular vulnerability of infant victims. Infants had a higher

incidence of multiple injuries and major injury than did other victims.

NIBRS captures up to three types of weapons associated with certain offenses. Table 5.12 shows the number of offenses reported wherein a certain type of weapon was used, and the number is further broken out by infant and all others. For the purposes of this table, the "multiple weapons" category reflects the number of offenses in which law enforcement reported more than one type of weapon. The preponderance of offenses committed against both infants and other-aged victims fell under the "personal weapons" category. Firearms were more likely to be used in offenses involving other-aged victims

Figure 5.13

Characteristics of Offenders, by Age Group of Victim



rather than infants. Multiple weapons, though rarely used, were more likely to be recorded by law enforcement for aggravated assault (6.6 percent within the offense category) than for any other offense (2.4 percent overall).

For this study, the location types collected in NIBRS were regrouped to reflect whether the location would be considered private (or secluded) or would be considered public (or within view of the public). (For the purpose of this study, the location category other/unknown was grouped with public locations.) The incidents were then charted by time of day and day of the week in order to assess any patterns of occurrence.

The preponderance of the incidents of infant victimizations occurred

in private locations. One possible explanation for this pattern is that during certain times in private locations victims have a lack of effective “guardianship” or witnesses who might act as a deterrent. Additionally, these incidents do not appear to have a distinct pattern throughout the day except for some minor peaking at stressful times: at the dinner-hour, when adults arrive home from work, or Monday morning, when adults leave the house to go to work.

Incidents that occurred under public view and in other/unknown locations were typically at times when people are out of the house on the weekends, in the late afternoon, or in the early evening. (See Figure 5.12.)

NIBRS collects data about the characteristics of offenders in terms of age, gender, and race. By assigning each offender to a category by age of victim, one can more easily distinguish any differing patterns of the characteristics among these groups.

In contrast to characteristics of victims in these incidents, offenders are less often female (34.9 percent) but similar in terms of race (69.5 percent

Figure 5.14

Percentage of Incidents Cleared

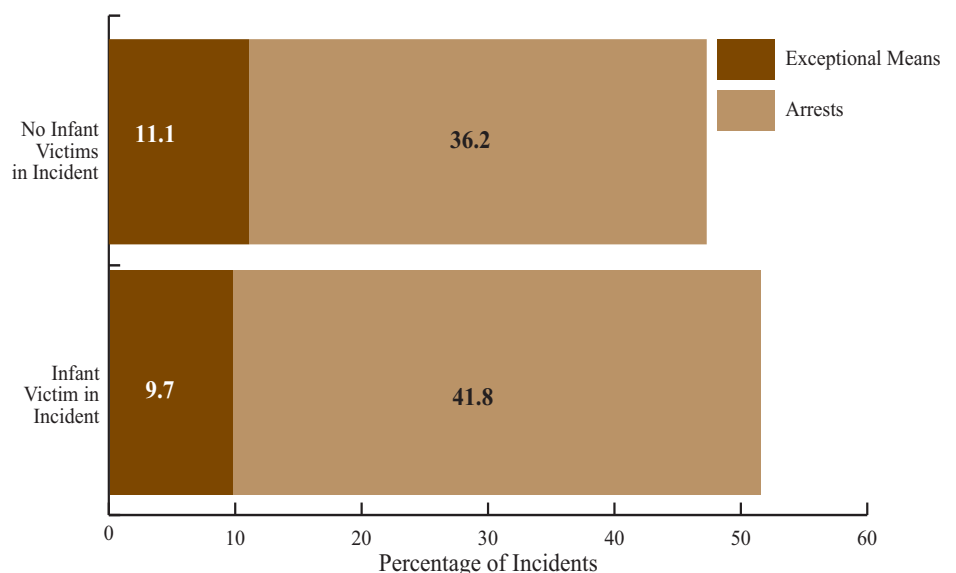
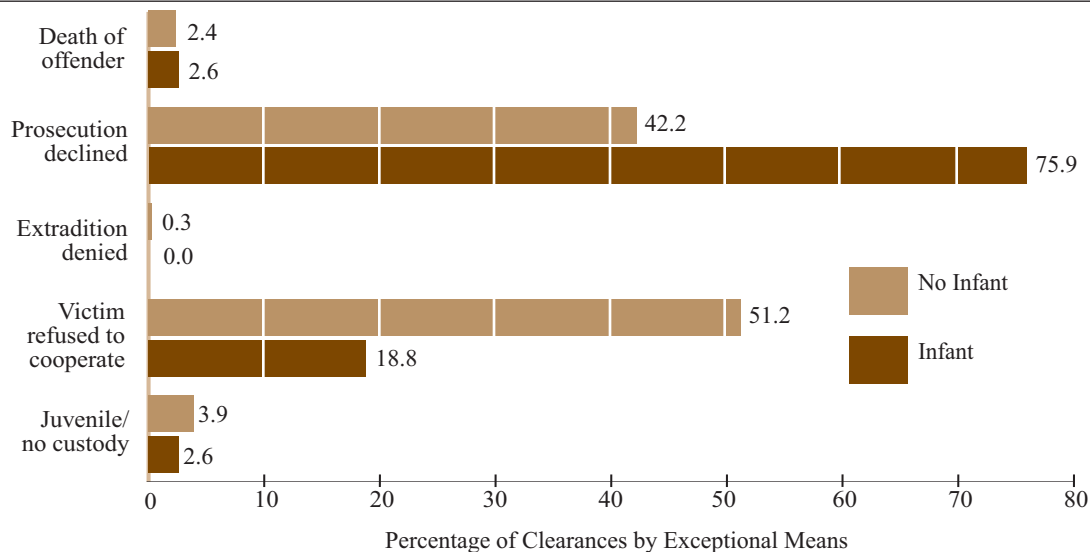


Figure 5.15

Clearances by Exceptional Means



Note: Figure 5.15 reflects the distribution of circumstances for reported exceptional clearances. Because the reporting of clearances occurs for the entire incident, the percentages are based upon incidents that either had no infant victims or had at least one infant victim (and possibly additional victims).

white). Among all incidents of infant victimization within this study, the offenders are mostly in their mid- to late twenties. (See Figure 5.13.) While those basic characteristics hold true for the subgroups of incidents with additional victims, the chances of the offender being female show subtle shifts depending upon the age group of the victim. Offenders are very often (47.5 percent) more likely to be female when the additional victims are young children and are less likely to be female when additional victims are adult or preadolescent and adolescent minor victims. There is a greater presence of minority offenders in incidents having additional older minor and adult victims. Although the average age of the offender is mostly stable across victim age groups, the average age of the offender shows a substantive difference (1.8 to 2.1 years) in incidents where the victims are in the Preadolescent and Adolescent Minors group. This finding is consistent with the lower occurrence of victimizing by family members compared with victimizing by individuals with whom the

victim is acquainted. The average age of offenders in crimes against preadolescent and adolescent minors may reflect circumstances in which offenders are closer in age to the victims themselves than in the other types of incidents.

Within the UCR Program, an incident, and subsequently any offenses within it, can be cleared by the arrest of one individual connected to it. Alternatively, it can be cleared by exceptional means when circumstances beyond the control of law enforcement prevent an arrest of a located offender from occurring. Incidents with infant victimization have a slightly higher overall clearance rate (51.5 percent) compared with incidents cleared when there were no infant victims (47.3 percent). Additionally, incidents with infant victimization are also more likely to be cleared by arrest, which may be expected since these incidents most commonly occur within a household by individuals known by or related to the victim. (See Figure 5.14.)

Law enforcement agencies report a clearance by exceptional means when

some element beyond law enforcement control prevents filing of formal charges against the offender. In such cases, the identity and location of the offender must be clearly established, and there must be enough information to support an arrest or charge. The data in Figure 5.15 show, among the circumstances that allow for an exceptional clearance in the UCR Program, the most common category for incidents with infant victimization was “prosecution declined” (75.9 percent). Whereas in those incidents without infant victimization, the most common circumstance of clearance by exceptional means involved the victim refusing to cooperate (51.2 percent).

Concluding Remarks

Although data gathering through NIBRS is not implemented widely enough to support definitive statements about the characteristics of infant victimization nationwide, patterns emerge from the existing data. As might be expected, the information in NIBRS appears to support the understanding that infant

victimization is primarily a problem associated with violence in a domestic setting. The NIBRS data yield the following observations:

- The preponderance of these incidents involved some form of assault and occurred in private by individuals related to the infants victimized or in a relationship of trust with members of the household.
- Infants are rarely the solitary victim in an incident, and they and their fellow victims are usually related to the offender.
- The characteristics of infant victims reflect no particular bias in terms of race (based on racial breakdown of the general population) or gender. However, in this data set, there was a greater presence of minorities in the group of victims who were present at an infant's victimization.
- Weapons employed in infant victimization are mostly in the

category of "personal weapons," and infants are far more likely to sustain serious or multiple injuries than are the other-aged victims present at the same incident.

- The typical offender is a white male in his mid- to late twenties. However, the data suggest that the offender is more likely to be female when additional victims are involved in the incident.
- In incidents with infant victimization, there is a higher probability of arrest compared with incidents having no infant victimization. This makes sense given the fact that in the majority of cases, the victims know their offenders in incidents with infant victimization. However, in times when arrest of a located offender is not possible, prosecution is declined in a significant proportion of incidents.

While it bears repeating that these findings do not necessarily reflect

statistics for the Nation as a whole, they do reflect the difficulties associated with an effective law enforcement response to this problem. When incidents occur in private and the witnesses to such crimes either cannot speak for themselves or may be reluctant to speak because of a sense of loyalty to friends and family, it can be difficult for law enforcement to ascertain sufficient information during an investigation to have a case accepted for prosecution.

Endnotes

¹Although in common usage the term *incest* describes incidents of sexual abuse between a parent and his or her child, the UCR Program defines incest as "nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law." Any acts of sexual abuse that are considered nonconsensual are classified as a forcible sex offense regardless of the relationship of the victim to the offender.

²The UCR Program defines *neonates* as infants under 24 hours old and *infants* as less than 1 year old.